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Botanical Explorations in Georgia during the Summer of 1901.—

I. Itinerary

BY ROLAND M. HARPER

My work on the flora of Georgia in 1901 was chiefly confined to the coastal plain, where more interesting botanical problems seem to be encountered than in any other part of the state. I entered the state at Savannah on the 4th of June, and on the morning of the same day went up to Millen, 78 miles northwest of Savannah, on the line between Burke and Screven counties, and about a mile east of the Ogeechee River, which here forms the northern boundary of Emanuel County. On the 5th I made two trips to the river (nos. 756–801),* exploring the swamps on both sides of it.

On the following day I went to the northern part of Bulloch County for a few weeks' stay at the home of a friend. Soon after crossing the Ogeechee River the pine-barrens (which are almost wanting in the vicinity of Millen), with their characteristic flora, made their appearance. At Graymont, in Emanuel County, where I left the railroad, I stopped to do a little collecting (nos. 803–820) before proceeding to my destination.

From the 7th to the 18th I was occupied in making the acquaintance of the plants of Bulloch County, collecting during this time several species of more than ordinary interest (nos. 821–916). The flora (making allowance for the difference in season) and the topography of northern Bulloch County were found quite similar to those of that part of Coffee County visited in September, 1900.

The floral areas of northern Bulloch County fall quite readily into the following five principal classes: sand-hills, dry, rather dry, and wet pine-barrens, and swamps (the last being perhaps capable of some subdivision). Each intergrades more or less with those next to it, but it is rare for any one species to be found in more than two of them. Some genera, however, have representatives in all. This is notably the case with *Rhynchospora*, which seems

* These numbers refer to the plants collected.

to be one of the largest genera of spermatophytes in this part of the state. The pine-barren ponds which are so characteristic of some parts of southwest Georgia are rare or wanting here.

Bulloch County is of interest historically as having been in all probability at one time the home of Mr. John Abbot, who has so skilfully portrayed a number of the interesting plants of Georgia in his "Natural History of the rarer Lepidopterous Insects of Georgia," published in 1797. Having examined this work a few weeks previously, I noticed on coming to Bulloch County the large number of plants growing in the vicinity which had been



FIG. 1. Scene on the dunes of Tybee Island, showing *Sabal Palmetto*. June 21.

figured by Mr. Abbot, a larger proportion than I had ever seen elsewhere ; and I collected several of them in order to throw more light on those which had never been definitely identified.

On June 19 I went down to Savannah to spend a few days in that vicinity. On the 20th I collected (nos. 917-922) near Guyton, in Effingham County, thirty miles from Savannah, and on the 21st (nos. 923-933) on Tybee Island, at the mouth of the Savannah River. In Savannah I was joined by my brother, Otto T. Harper, who accompanied me most of the time during the rest of the summer, and assisted me with some of the work.

On the 22d I was back in Effingham County, and in the afternoon walked from Guyton to Springfield, the county seat, about six miles back from the railroad (nos. 934-938). The pine-barrens around Guyton differ from those farther inland in being more level and full of shrubs, mostly *Ilex glabra*, with some *Xolisma ferruginea* and two or three small species of *Quercus*. In the vicinity of Springfield, however, a marked difference is to be noted. About half way from Guyton to Springfield the country becomes rather hilly, and the pine-barrens disappear, giving way to shady deciduous woods sheltering many species of more northern distribution. This feature continues the rest of the way to Springfield



FIG. 2. Rosemary sand-hills, Emanuel County, Georgia. "Rosemary" (*Ceratiola ericoides*) in the foreground. June 28.

and probably some distance beyond. Springfield is on the divide between the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers, and must be considerably higher than Guyton, which is near the Ogeechee and only about seventy-five feet above sea-level.

On June 24 I returned to Bulloch County, by way of Dover, Statesboro and Pulaski, collecting a few plants (nos. 939-943) at the latter place before starting across the country to my destination. For the next ten days I continued my studies of the flora of

Bulloch County, with most interesting results. During the first few days of my stay there I had heard some mention of a "Rosemary Church," several miles away, and on asking my friends if it did not derive its name from some plant, I was answered in the affirmative, and was given an interesting description of the place, but it was not until June 28 that I had an opportunity to visit it. Rosemary Church is situated on the left bank of Fifteen Mile Creek, in Emanuel County, among sand-hills of quite a different type from those seen elsewhere. The sand here is whiter than that of the ordinary sand-hills, and is said to be deeper, but as far as we know at present it is of the same Columbia formation. *Ceratiola ericoides*, the "rosemary," from which the place takes its name, is the most characteristic plant. The flora is not so rich as that of the ordinary sand-hills, but is composed mostly of different species, some of which will be mentioned in the latter part of this paper. The absence of grasses is a noteworthy feature. These rosemary sand-hills doubtless represent the extreme of xerophytic conditions in this region. My numbers 975-984 were secured on this trip to this rosemary sand-hills in Emanuel County, and numbers 944-974 and 985-988 were collected in Bulloch during the remainder of my stay there.

This eastern portion of the coastal plain of Georgia was quite familiar ground to Bartram, Michaux, Elliott, Baldwin, Beyrich and other early botanists, but has been considerably neglected since their time. After seeing many of the species of these authors in their type regions I found that I was able to understand them much better than before. This kind of study is much more satisfactory in many cases than any amount of examination of type specimens, too many of which are poorly preserved or accompanied by insufficient data.

On the morning of July 3 I left Bulloch County and drove over to Graymont on my way to the southwestern part of the state, stopping there again to collect a few plants (nos. 989-993). At Stillmore I also had a few hours to wait, and collected there numbers 994-996. During the afternoon I proceeded to Collins, in Tattnall County, where I remained until the next morning (nos. 997-1002). Collins seems to be in the same belt of flat country as Waycross, though it is considerably higher (235 feet above sea

level). The rolling country appears again immediately west of Collins, however.

On the 4th I resumed my journey, and after traveling almost due west for 126 miles, mostly through rolling pine-barrens, stopped at Leslie, in Sumter County, where I had spent some time the previous year, though later in the season. My brother had preceded me there by several days. We made Leslie our headquarters until the latter part of August, in the meanwhile making several trips of greater or less extent to various places south and west of there. Within easy walking distance of Leslie, in the counties of Sumter, Lee and Dooley, I collected numbers 1003-1017, 1025-1082 and 1102-1126 in July and 1241-1247 in August. Numbers 1018-1024 and 1127-1146 were collected in and near Americus in July.

On July 17 we started on a journey to the Chattahoochee River, about seventy miles west, passing through the counties of Webster and Stewart, and into the terrane of the Cretaceous formations, corresponding to the "Central Prairie Region" of Alabama. The prairie feature seems to be lacking in Georgia, however, this region being more hilly than any other portion of the coastal plain of the state, some of the hills rising to a height of about 700 feet above sea-level. As far as I am aware, nothing has ever been published on the flora of this Cretaceous region of Georgia, beyond a few references by Bartram, who passed through the upper part of it in the summer of 1776, and described the natural features of the country in his "Travels," published several years later. Unfortunately a large proportion of this region is now under cultivation or has been otherwise tampered with, making the study of its natural floral conditions rather difficult, and in our short stay I did not have time to wander far from the highways of travel in order to study the more primitive conditions.

On the morning of the 18th I collected numbers 1083-1087 at Lumpkin and Union in Stewart County during the stops of our train. That afternoon we stopped at Omaha, the last station on the Georgia side of the river, and walked down the river a few miles (nos. 1088-1094). The most interesting plants were found immediately on the banks of the river, which are here about sixty feet high and very steep, and are covered with a dense growth of

trees, of great variety and often of magnificent proportions, interspersed with cane-brakes of *Arundinaria gigantea* twenty or twenty-five feet tall. *Taxodium distichum* is here conspicuous by its absence, whether because of the steepness of the banks, or for some other reason, I do not know. These banks are so high that they are never overflowed, consequently there are no "bottom lands" along the river here.

At the time and place of our visit to the Chattahoochee River about ten feet of Cretaceous rocks were exposed at the base of the bank, rising perpendicularly from the water's edge, the rest of the bank being composed of the Columbia sands. Very few flowering plants grow on these rocks, which are difficult of access on account of their perpendicularly, but numerous springs issuing from the bank along the line of contact of the two formations supply moisture for many mosses and liverworts.

Early the next morning we visited an interesting pond (the only one seen in the Cretaceous region) in the woods south of Omaha (nos. 1095-1099). Later in the day we went up the left bank of the river a few miles (nos. 1100, 1101), then turned away from the river and walked east as far as Louvale. On the morning of the 20th we walked to Lumpkin, and from there took the next train back to Leslie. Between the river and Louvale I did not stop to do any collecting, but made many notes on the flora of the Cretaceous uplands. The flora of this region, at least in Stewart County, seems to be mostly a mixture of that of the Tertiary region nearer the coast and the metamorphic region on the north, with few if any endemic species. The abundance of *Arundinaria* is one peculiar feature, however, as in the corresponding portion of Alabama. The Cretaceous region of Georgia is doubtless analogous to the "tension zone" of New Jersey (described by Dr. Hollick*), which is also Cretaceous.

Our next trip outside of Sumter County was on the first three days of August, to Adams, in Lee County, midway between Americus and Albany. While traveling southward from Americus I was interested to see the same succession of topographic and floral zones that I was already familiar with between Americus and the Flint River to the eastward. These zones, which seem

* Am. Nat. 33: 1-14, 109-116. 1899.

to correspond with certain geological formations, here run in a general northeasterly and southwesterly direction.

On the train I met a former acquaintance, whose home was in Baker County, and after I had explained to him the object of my travels he mentioned that the cane (doubtless *Arundinaria gigantea*) had flowered in the vicinity of his home that spring, an occurrence which had never before been known to the oldest inhabitants. This corresponds with the observations of Dr. Mohr in Alabama, published on the preceding day.*

Adams is evidently in the same pine-barren zone as Leslie, but around Adams the Lafayette formation is mostly overlaid by the Columbia, which makes some difference in the flora. We remained in the vicinity until the 3d, during that time crossing Kinchafoonee Creek on the west and Muckalee on the east (nos. 1147-1162). On the east side of Muckalee Creek, some eight or ten miles southeast of Adams, are some interesting lime-sinks, a few of which were visited on the afternoon of the 2d. On the return trip to Leslie the next day, which was made partly on foot, I collected *Plantago sparsiflora* (no. 1163) near Smithville in Lee County and an apparently undescribed species of *Mesadenia* (no. 1164) a few miles south of Leslie in Sumter County.

The following week we started on a more extensive trip to the extreme southwestern part of the state, by way of Americus and Albany. Our first stop on this trip was at Camilla, in Mitchell County, on the 7th and 8th (nos. 1165-1170). The most interesting natural feature in the vicinity of Camilla is the "Slough," which is shown on most maps of Georgia, though I have never yet seen it mentioned otherwise. It is represented on the maps as a body of water about twenty miles long and one or two miles wide, approximately parallel to the Flint River in Mitchell and Decatur counties. But it is not a body of water at all, nor even a swamp. That portion of it which we explored, a mile or two west of Camilla, is simply a broad shallow depression about a mile wide and perhaps ten feet lower than the surrounding country. At the time of our visit there was considerable water in it as a result of recent rains (August being one of the wettest months in that part of the country), but it is said to be ordinarily quite dry for its whole

* Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. 6: 103, 389. 1901.

length, except in a few holes which are deep enough to hold water throughout the year. The flora of the Slough is not very remarkable. The principal woody plants in it are medium-sized bushes of *Quercus Virginiana*, *Crataegus aestivalis*, and *Diospyros Virginiana*, with *Pinus palustris* in drier places. Among the herbaceous species in the Slough may be mentioned *Sporobolus Floridanus*, *Acerates Floridana*, *Breweria aquatica*, *Diodia trecs*, *Chrysopsis graminifolia* and *Rudbeckia Mohrii*. This is very much the same kind of flora as is found around the mayhaw (*Crataegus aestivalis*) ponds of Sumter County. *Nama ovata*, conspicuous with its large bright blue flowers, was the only species found in the Slough which I had not seen elsewhere.

On the 8th we continued our journey as far as Thomasville. The next day was occupied with a trip to the type locality of *Nymphaea orbiculata*, about six miles northeast of the city (nos. 1171-1181). On the 10th we traveled west 21 miles, to Whigham, in Decatur County, in the midst of a topographically and botanically remarkable region. The surrounding country is quite hilly, much more so than that a few miles to the northward, and the forests are composed almost entirely of deciduous trees. Although less than sixty miles from the Gulf of Mexico, one standing in these deciduous forests could easily imagine himself among the mountains 250 miles farther north. Similar conditions prevail near Thomasville, though perhaps not in such marked degree; also at Tallahassee, Florida (which is about thirty miles from Whigham), according to the reports of geologists and botanists who have been there.*

Five or six miles north of Whigham these densely wooded hills terminate and the comparatively level pine-barrens of the Lower Oligocene or lime-sink region are again seen. About seven miles from Whigham is one of the most remarkable lime-sinks in the state. It is known to some geologists as Forest Falls, but the inhabitants of that region call it simply the "Lime Sink." There is a full-page illustration of it with description in Bulletin No. 5 of the Georgia Geological Survey. This lime-sink differs from all others which I have seen in its great depth (about ninety feet) and in containing a waterfall eighty feet high, making it one

* See Nash, Bull. Torrey Club, 23 : 96. 1896.

of the most beautiful natural features in South Georgia. I know of no other such waterfall in the entire coastal plain of the eastern United States. The side of the sink opposite the falls is not too steep to allow of an easy descent to the bottom, and we spent a couple of hours at this interesting spot on the morning of August 12 (nos. 1190-1194).

On leaving Forest Falls we walked southwestward toward Bainbridge about nine miles (nos. 1195-1201), to visit a pond which is also illustrated in the bulletin just mentioned. There it is called Fairview Lake, but we found "Open Pond" to be the name in current use in the vicinity. This pond is about half a mile in diameter, and takes its name from the fact that, unlike most of the ponds of the coastal plain, there is no vegetation showing above its surface except a few bushes near the shore. The water is unusually clear, and the shore is sandy, affording a habitat for several very interesting plants (nos. 1202-1206). In all these respects it resembles very much some of the ponds of New England.

Early the next morning we explored another pond about the size of Open Pond and two miles north of it, of which we had been told on the previous day. This latter is known as "Cane Water Pond," and is said to derive its name from the abundance in it of maiden-cane (*Panicum digitarioides*). It is very different from Open Pond, being surrounded by cypress (*Taxodium imbricarium*) swamps and filled with a luxuriant aquatic vegetation. Here we had the use of a boat, so were able to explore the pond somewhat thoroughly (nos. 1208-1213). Cane Water Pond is remarkable for containing a representative of each of our five North American genera of Nymphaeaceae, viz., *Cabomba*, *Brasenia*, *Nelumbo*, *Nymphaea* and *Castalia*. The *Brasenia* and *Nelumbo* are of course the same species as found in the northern states, but the other three genera are represented by different forms which will be mentioned later. The *Nelumbo* is quite rare, but the other four are abundant and their floating leaves together with those of *Limnanthemum aquaticum* serve to cover the surface of the pond very densely, leaving only two or three open spaces a few yards across. Another interesting feature of Cane Water Pond is the presence in it of several floating islands, composed principally of *Triadenum*

Virginicum, *Ludwigia sphaerocarpa*, *Ludwigiantha arcuata*, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, and a small species of *Eleocharis*. The *Cephalanthus* is probably attached to the bottom, but the other species have no direct connection with the soil.

Around both Cane Water and Open Ponds, and all the way between them, the soil is of the Columbia sands, loose and dry, giving rise to a flora not unlike that of the sand-hills of southeast Georgia. In such situations numbers 1214 and 1215 were collected.

From Cane Water Pond we retraced our steps to Open Pond, followed the road from there toward Bainbridge about two miles, and then went back to Whigham by a different road. Soon after turning back toward Whigham we passed a limited area of very dry white sand, similar to that of the rosemary sand-hills of Emanuel County and containing a few of their characteristic species, which were not seen elsewhere in southwest Georgia (nos. 1216, 1217).

From Whigham I went alone on August 14 to Saffold, in the southwestern corner of Early County, on the Chattahoochee River, and collected along and near the river that afternoon and the next morning (nos. 1218-1232). The banks of the Chattahoochee at this point, about thirty miles from its confluence with the Flint and a hundred feet above sea level, are only about half as high as they are near Omaha, but still quite steep. As they are here subject to occasional overflow the flora is rather different from that farther up. *Rhus copallina*, *Aralia spinosa* and *Bumelia lycioides*, species which elsewhere are usually shrubs, here become truly arborescent. Specimens of *Aralia* with trunks six inches in diameter and twenty-five feet tall and of *Bumelia* eight inches thick and about fifty feet tall were observed.

There are several small lime-sinks between the station and the river, though this is very near the inland edge of the lime-sink region. A short distance north of the station is a rather remarkable feature for this part of the state, a steep rocky wooded hillside, sloping toward the river, with of course a rather peculiar flora. The outcropping rocks, which are very hard and siliceous, are clothed with mosses and lichens, and *Asplenium platyneuron* grows in their crevices, just as it does in the mountainous parts of the

state. Among the flowering plants inhabiting this hillside are *Dioscorea*, *Hydrangea quercifolia*, *Cercis*, *Phaseolus polystachyus*, *Erythrina herbacea*, *Viola villosa*, *Yeatesia*, *Polymnia Uvedalia* and *Melanthera hastata*. Some fragments of the rock from this place have been identified by means of their fossils as Lower Oligocene.

About noon on the 15th I went back thirty miles over the same route I had come the day before, to West Bainbridge, where I collected numbers 1233-1238 in the Columbia sands along the Flint River, and during the afternoon I traveled forty miles northward on the Georgia Pine Railway through Miller and Early Counties to Arlington, in Calhoun County (nos. 1239, 1240). Arlington seems to be in the same pine-barren zone as Leslie, but on account of a heavy rain the next morning I was not able to study carefully the similarity of the floras. On the afternoon of the 16th I continued my journey to Albany, where I had a few hours to wait, so I went out across the Flint River to have a look at the flora and geological features, but did no collecting because this locality had been already pretty well explored by Dr. Chapman, Dr. Small and other botanists.

From Bainbridge, at the coastward edge of the lime-sink region, to Sumter County, at its inland edge, the flora of the banks of the Flint River does not seem to vary much, and all the species seen at Albany were the same as those already seen elsewhere. From Albany I went to Cordele, crossing the Flint River at still another place, where it forms the boundary between Lee and Worth Counties, and returned to Leslie the morning of August 17.

Ten days later I started for the metamorphic region, going by way of Richland and Columbus. At the latter place I crossed the Chattahoochee River to examine some of the geological features of the fall-line (the inland boundary of the coastal plain). On the morning of August 28 I left the coastal plain and went up to Woodbury, in Meriwether County, near the Flint River, 51 miles from Columbus, where I stopped two days (nos. 1249-1273).

The most noteworthy natural feature in the vicinity of Woodbury is the range of Pine Mountains, which extends approximately east and west through the counties of Harris, Meriwether, Talbot and Upson. These are the southernmost mountains in the eastern

United States, but they are rarely shown on maps and are very little known outside of their immediate vicinity. The only measurement of their altitude which I can find was made some years ago over G. M. & G. R. R. tunnel thirteen miles below Woodbury, and is 1,148 feet. This range passes within two or three miles of Woodbury, where the Flint River cuts through it in a narrow gap or gorge about 400 feet deep. Most of my collecting among the Pine Mountains was done in the vicinity of this gap, in Meriwether and Upson Counties. The mountains are very steep, especially in the vicinity of the river, where they rise abruptly from the water's edge with a slope of about 45° . The



FIG. 3. Pine Mountains near Woodbury, showing gap of Flint River; looking southeastward from an isolated peak near the river. Aug. 29.

rock of which they are composed is a hard sandstone, which gives rise on disintegration to a very sandy soil, supporting a flora which is quite different from that of eastern Middle Georgia and resembles in many ways that of the coastal plain.

These mountains take their name from *Pinus palustris*, which is abundant all over them, often attaining as large dimensions as in the pine-barrens of South Georgia. Its occurrence here is not mentioned in even the most recent publications of the state agricultural department, and was therefore entirely unexpected. I

heard of a few sawmills in operation among these mountains, but saw little evidence of their work. The flora of the dry southern slopes of the mountains is not unlike that of some of the dry pine-barrens 100 miles farther south, being characterized by such species as *Andropogon furcatus*, *Paspalum bifidum*, *Cyperus retrofractus*, *Yucca filamentosa*, *Agave Virginica*, *Quercus Catesbaei*, *Ceanothus Americanus*, *Crotalaria rotundifolia*, *Indigofera Caroliniana*, *Cracca Virginiana*, *Stylosanthes biflora*, *Vaccinium arboreum*, *Asclepias verticillata*, *Vernonia angustifolia* and *Chrysopsis graminifolia*. On the shaded northern slopes however many Alleghanian species are met with, such as *Dryopteris Noveboracensis*, *Uvularia perfoliata*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Trillium stylosum*, *Quercus rubra*, *Castanea dentata*, *Magnolia Fraseri*, *Heuchera Americana*, *Robinia Pseudacacia* and *Antennaria solitaria*. Along the banks of the river at the base of the mountains two species which are usually confined to the swamps of the coastal plain, *Nyssa uniflora* and *Cyrilla racemiflora*, are quite common at 650 feet altitude, the latter sometimes growing on rocky cliffs with *Kalmia latifolia*. The former extends up the river to Pike County.

Near Woodbury, at about 775 feet altitude, are some bogs with a flora much like that of similar places around Americus, containing such lowland species as *Lycopodium pinnatum*, *Cyperus Haspan*, *Eleocharis tuberculosa*, *Rhynchospora axillaris*, *Juncus trigonocarpus*, *Polygala cruciata*, *Rhexia Virginica*, *Eryngium virgatum*, *Gratiola pilosa* and others which will be mentioned later. On the 29th I went over into Pike County a few miles, and collected a few plants in a similar bog at about the same altitude, which contained besides some of the species just mentioned *Scleria trichopoda*, *Rhexia ciliosa*, *Cynoctonum sessilifolium*, *Viburnum nudum*, *Eupatorium verbenae-folium* and *E. rotundifolium*.

On the 30th I proceeded to Griffin, twenty-nine miles farther, noticing on the way that *Pinus palustris* extended up into Spalding County to within a few miles of Griffin. One species was collected in the woods near the Experiment Station that afternoon.

The next day I went by way of McDonough up to Atlanta, where I rejoined my brother. On September 3, we were at College Park, making collections in that vicinity, in the southern edge of Fulton County and adjacent portions of Campbell (nos. 1275—

1283). Two days later we went up to Dalton, from which point we made only one excursion before leaving the state, collecting numbers 1284-1292 on the Oostanula Shale about two miles east of the city.

The number of days which I spent in Georgia in 1901 was the same as in the previous year, and although not so many specimens were collected, more was accomplished in other ways. My travels by rail within the state covered about 1,380 miles, and as about 98 per cent. of this distance was traversed in the daytime, I was able to make observations on the flora of nearly every mile traversed. I collected in twenty-four counties, and made notes on the flora of seventeen others. Over 100 photographs illustrating my observations were taken.

Among the noteworthy results of my trip may be mentioned the re-discovery of *Elliottia racemosa*,* the finding of inexhaustible quantities of *Isoetes* in the coastal plain of Georgia, where none had been known to exist before, and the exploration of the sand-hills of southeast Georgia, the Cretaceous region, the Slough, Forest Falls, the ponds of Decatur County, and the Pine Mountains.

Dr. Mohr's "Plant Life of Alabama," which appeared during the summer, was a great help to me in several ways, giving me an opportunity to compare the floral conditions in Georgia with those of the corresponding portions of Alabama; and it was a source of considerable satisfaction to note how nearly his treatment coincided with that which I had already planned for Georgia.

Some of the undescribed or otherwise noteworthy plants collected on this trip will be discussed in the concluding portion of this paper.

COLLEGE POINT, N. Y.

* See Plant World, 5: 87-90. *pl. 12*. My 1902; also Sargent, Silva N. Am. 14: 31. 1902.